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Sarkozy: Tax havens will be shunned by G20 powers

CANNES (AFP) - French President Nicolas Sarkozy warned yesterday that tax havens would be shunned by the international community, naming Switzerland among countries he said had not done enough to end banking secrecy.

"We don't want any more tax havens. Our message is clear," Sarkozy said at the end of the G20 summit in Cannes.

Sarkozy named 11 coun-

tries that fail to meet transparency standards -- Antigua, Barbados, Botswana, Brunei, Panama, Seychelles, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Vanuata, Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

"Countries that remain tax havens ... will be shunned by the international community," he warned.

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Mainstreet Bazaar/Sidewalk sale today

MAMBO announces an extra Bazaar/Sidewalk sale in the mainstreet today, Saturday, November 5. The Bazaar/Sidewalk sale is a tip of the hat to the ARUBAINSTYLE Fashion Week now taking place on Aruba.

If style is what you are looking for, don't neglect the diverse selection of quality stores on Oranjestad's mainstreet. Shoppers will find a vast variety of clothes, shoes, perfumes, cosmetics and accessories of renown brand names.

Come and take advantage

of all the special offers and bargains; there are also tents on the sidewalk with goods at slashed down prices.

MAMBO reminds everyone that although the main street is undergoing renovation, the stores are easily accessible. Since roads are closed for all motorized traffic, pedestrians have ample space to stroll and window shop; most of the sidewalks are finished.

MAMBO extends a heartfelt 'thank you' to everyone who in some way or the other supports our merchants in the mainstreet.

ARUBA IN STYLE welcomes guest designers and international media for opening night



ATA CEO Ronella Tjin Asjoe Croes with Kathy Hilton and Eva Wever



Kathy Hilton with Designer di Neila



International Designers and Media at the opening event

The eagerly-anticipated ARUBA IN STYLE Fashion Week, in partnership with IMG, arrived with all the media hoopla one would expect as photographers crowded around to click away at guest designers Kathy Hilton, diNeila, Nicolas Felizola, Marcelo Quadro, and others, during the glitzy opening event in the main hall of the Renaissance Mall on Thursday evening, November 3. It was immediately followed by a special program from David Yurman, "Elements of Style" at Gandelman jewelers in the mall.

Yesterday the runway events began with shows by

Venezuelan and Colombian designers in the afternoon and diNeila Brazil and Issa London in the evening.

Today, beginning at 3:30 will be the runway show by the Dutch Group, followed by Marcelo Quadros and "A Special Occasion with Kathy Hilton" from 5:30 to 6:30 PM. The wife to heir of the famous hotel franchise launched her line of cocktail and formal gowns in September during the Fashion Coterie in NYC.

"I see women across the board wearing my collection," she comments, "they are timeless; I can see them being worn season after season."

Continued on page 3

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Hat's off to Mad Hatter at The Village on their one year anniversary celebration



Aaron and Rosie with Marlene and the newest craze in headwear



Marty and daughter Tina in the MH hats



Great Friends, Rosie and Lori



Rosie and Aaran Wallis ever-
are two very well-liked re-

their friends were in evidence for the congenial first anniversary celebration of their stylish hat shop, Mad Hatter, on Wednesday, November 2.

"We had retired here and were looking for something to do," reminisces Aaron, "and we thought 'Hey, with this sun, everybody needs a hat, why not a shop of really great headgear?'"

Appreciative clients came to show off past purchases and share a celebratory toast, while others found it impossible to leave the shop without a new addition to their wardrobe, the choices are so diverse and tempting.

From classic fedoras to the Rat-Pack look effect by Frank Sinatra, colorful wide brims to lame and pastel "Crocodile Dundee" adventure-style hats, everyone found something that made them smile, including an amazing new collection of delightfully decorated clutches that will compliment any outfit; Rosie is particularly proud of the sweetly feminine and flowered little shoulder bags.

"I try to find the really unique and appropriate in accessories for Aruba's tropical ambiente," comments Rosie, "I am sure that patrons will have as much fun with them as I do!"

by Rosalie Klein



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ARUBA IN STYLE welcomes guest designers media. . .

Continued from page 1

Her designs are also consciously priced across the board; "People are not in the mood to spend a fortune on clothing right now, the price point is fantastic-doesn't break the bank. I see the designs making the transition from young teenagers to sixties and seventies."

CEO of the Aruba Tourism Authority, Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes, was flanked by Mrs. Hilton and AIS Co-founder and P/R Manager Eva Wever while welcoming media from The New Yorker, Daily News, Ocean Drive, Metro News of Canada, Conde Nast Publications and De Telegraaf of Holland, to name a few, as well as fashion bloggers and cable networks on island to cover the event.



Local models to be seen on the runway.

Tickets for the runway events and glamorous after parties on Renaissance Island are available at the ARUBA IN STYLE office in Renaissance Mall and Red Sail

Sports locations in Hyatt and The Village Mall in Palm Beach.

As an added value to today's runway shows, AIS is offering Style Sessions begin-



AMS winner Adrian Cardosa and int'l male models

ning at 1:00 PM with fashion icons Nole Marin, a judge from "America's Next Top Model" who has organized spreads for Elle Magazine,

and from Colombia, Pilar Castagno, former editor of Colombia Fashion Week.

By Rosalie Klein



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Tiara Air Aruba announces absolute winner of its school campaign



As part of its 5th anniversary celebration Tiara Air Aruba held a school campaign, and on October 28, the company representatives picked out a winner in front of the cameras during the show of 'Kanal 80 cu Hermanito'. The raffle was held at the Tiara Air Aruba offices at

Fokkerweg in Curacao.

The winner is Aaron Jose Acosta, a student of Marnix school, born April 13, 1995. Aaron, a student pilot, was picked out from the 13 to 16 years category group.

Tiara air representatives are very happy to contribute in the future education of the youngster and make his dream come true. Aaron's dream is to become a pilot and he will further his studies in that direction. Now that he has won this prize he chose a scholarship program in Miami to pursue his studies to become a pilot.

Soon Aaron will come to Aruba to officially claim his prize.

Congratulations.

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AIS/Salon is in full swing

The ARUBA IN STYLE Fashion Week also offers over 2 dozen opportunities for those fascinated by the concept of fashion as a reflection of cultural, sociological and political trends, to enjoy the artistic statement of dozens of artists at 22 venues throughout the island from Nov 3 to 13. All standing exhibitions are free to the public and feature the original works of Aruban, Dutch and South African artists in several landmark buildings and other unique and interesting venues around the island.

Renowned island artist Elisa Lejeuz has a standing exhibition in her home/studio at Malmokweg 42. The picturesque Old Protestant Church in Oranjestad features the works of Philippe Vogleen-zang, Majid Karrouch, Ciro Abath, Pricilla Lacle, Jess Wolff, Robin de Vogel, Claes Iversen and Bas Bosters. Next



Claudia Ruiz Velasquez environmentally aware fashion

to that in the VCO Building is the work of Scheltens & Abbenes, Elvis Lopez, Pauline van Dongen, Lernert & Sander and Robin de Vogel.

Close by in the City Hall, where marriages are performed, is an exhibition of David West, Darkie, Chris Saunders, Robin de Vogel, and Osaira Muyale. Across the street from there is the former Arends House/Papiamento Restaurant with work by:



Ciro Abath



AIS Salon producers Gijs Stork and Manon Schaap

youasme measyou, Ryan Oduber, Michael Lampe and Robin de Vogel.

The Aruba National Archaeological Museum visitors will find the works of Viktor & Rolf, Telka van Dodewaard, Mattijs van Bergen, Edwin Oudshoorn, Marga Weimans, Anne Bosman, Sanne Schepers, Linda de Jong, Robin de Vogel and Niek Pulles added to the regular displays. Within the Renaissance Mall will be pieces by Claudia Ruiz-Vasquez and Paul Ward; the screen at Blue Lounge next to the resort's reception area will be showing Mustafa Ozen, Pauline van Dongen, Antoine

cial performance of Escena Cultural FFF Opera by Nelson Gonzalez, with Tuesday Irwin, Gloria Bryce and Andre LeGrand at the Santa Rosa Nature Center. This is a one-time intervention, doors open at 6:00 PM and the event finishes at 8:45 – there is no entrance fee. Yesterday evening, the second Aruba Bra-Art Exhibit, dedicated to breast cancer patients, opened at the Ateliers '89 in Oranjestad; Westin Aruba Resort will also host on Wednesday, November 9, a one-time event which will raise funds for the same worthwhile cause, Pink Runway. This fashion show features the



EPI students act as guides

Peters, Loen Hauser, Zara Zerny, Martin Butler & Renee Copray, Athi Patra Ruba and Lenert & Sander.

Other venues with exhibitions running the entire length of the AIS/Salon, from noon until 5:00 PM daily, will be De Suikertuin, Reina Beatrix International Airport, Studio O and Jimmy's Place in Oranjestad, with a Carnival Fashion Collection. A Frida Kahlo Tribute with several artists will be on exhibit from Nov 7.

Tonight, there will be a spe-

work of local designers and all models are breast cancer survivors.

AIS/Salon end will be marked by a Closure Party during the Green Village in San Nicolas with internationally renowned Aruban musician Michael Lampe on November 13, beginning at 6:00 PM. To follow the exhibits and all news regarding AIS/Salon visit: www.salon1.org or their facebook page: arubainstyle/SALON.

by Rosalie Klein



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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Fears of crackdown spread at Occupy Wall Street



NEW YORK (AFP) - Fears of a possible police crackdown spread Friday through New York's Occupy Wall Street camp in the wake of violent clashes between police and protesters in California.

The camp which popped up in Manhattan's Zuccotti Park seven weeks ago, inspiring similar anti-Wall Street demonstrations across the United States and in London, faces mounting political pressure, along with plummeting temperatures.

The police presence was unchanged around the cramped tent village, but angry comments by Mayor Michael Bloomberg and increasingly hostile coverage in parts of the New York media jangled protesters' nerves.

The occupywallst.org website reported "rampant" rumors of police action and warned: "NYPD (police) could move in as early as tonight, or it could

be next week. We know that our adversaries are trying to build political cover for eviction by demonizing us in the press."

Ex-Marine Jose Mediavilla, 29, cut a bizarre sight wearing a gas mask while using a broom and dustpan to clean around the cramped tent village.

He said that while the camp was being skewered by the press, ordinary people still supported its aims of drawing attention to Wall Street corruption and economic inequities.

The OWS camp already survived one apparent attempt at eviction three weeks ago, when police and the owners of the small, mostly concrete park said they would enforce a cleaning operation, only to back off at the last hour.

Since then, Bloomberg has given mixed messages over his support for freedom of speech and his dislike for the way the

protesters have established their noisy presence in the high-rent downtown neighborhood.

Further heating the rhetoric against OWS are lurid media reports of unsavory behavior, including drug-taking and public urinating. The popular New York Post tabloid has run prominent articles about what it calls the protest "insanity."

"Occupy Wall Street animals go wild.... ZOO-COTTI!" the front page headline screamed Friday over a photo-report on a brief fracas between two protesters at Zuccotti Park.

On Thursday, the Post's front page contained an appeal for police intervention headlined: "ENOUGH!" It came the same day as police in Oakland, California, used tear gas to disperse stone-throwing anti-capitalist protesters.

The few hundred New York demonstrators -- some of whom sleep out at night -- are already struggling to cope with falling temperatures.

On Friday, chilly winds tore at the 100 or so, often flimsy tents, and at one point sent the huge blue tarpaulin protecting the protesters' sophisticated media equipment flying. Several young people around the camp could be seen shivering uncontrollably.

Despite the problems, the core of protesters seem as resolute and well organized as ever. Their neatly organized encampment includes everything from an ever-expanding library to a bicycle powered composting machine.

Construction worker Tim Reed, eating his lunch in Zuccotti Park before returning to his building site, said he saw no need for a heavy handed response.

"I think it's probably the biggest tourist attraction in New York right now," he said.

US warns Americans about risks of travel to Kenya

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States warned Americans Friday against traveling to Kenya amid rising concerns about Shebab militants based in Somalia.

On October 23, a week after Kenyan forces crossed into Somalia to hunt the Shebab, the US embassy in Nairobi warned Americans of an "imminent threat" of attacks possibly targeting foreigners and cited the risk of travel to Kenya.

Friday's State Department warning cited a flurry of recent kidnappings of Europeans in Kenya who were taken into areas of Somalia controlled by the Al-Qaeda-linked Shebab. A disabled French woman died in captivity.

It recalled that Kenya responded on October 16 by launching a military offensive into Somalia, which prompted Shebab threats of attacking

civilian targets in Kenya.

A night club and a bus stop in Nairobi were later subject to grenade attacks.

Helicopter-borne US Special Operations Forces staged a May raid in Pakistan that killed bin Laden.

"Terrorist acts could include suicide operations, bombings, kidnappings, attacks on civil aviation, and attacks on maritime vessels in or near Kenyan ports," the State Department said.

On October 23, the embassy cited "credible information of an imminent threat of terrorist attacks directed at prominent Kenyan facilities and areas where foreigners are known to congregate, such as malls and night clubs."

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton then pointed to threats by the Shebab as the reason the US embassy in Nairobi issued the warning.

IMF approves \$616 mn loan to Ivory Coast

(AFP) - The International Monetary Fund awarded Friday a \$616 million loan to Ivory Coast to help revive its economy devastated by post-election violence.

The IMF executive board approved the loan Friday, and a first installment of \$128.3 million was immediately available, the Washington-based institution said in a statement.

The board also endorsed \$8 million in aid for the country under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative. The money represents relief on debt service as the country moves through the HIPC process toward debt forgiveness.

The \$616 million Extended Credit Facility loan is for three years.

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130-year-old coin fetches 'record' at Dutch auction

THE HAGUE (AFP) - An American four-dollar gold coin dating back to 1879 went under the hammer at an auction in the Netherlands on Friday for a record price of 95,000 euros, auctioneers Schulman announced.

"The highest ever price for the sale at auction of a gold coin was fetched during the Schulman auction," the auction house said in a statement.

"The 1879 four-dollar Stella from the United States was sold for 95,000 euros", or \$130,000, Schulman said.



Only 425 four-dollar coins, also known as Stellas because of the five-pointed star that is the main design on the reverse,

were made.

Both the seller and the buyer of the rare coin wanted to remain anonymous.

Six killed as Italian port city floods

ROME (AFP) - Six people were killed yesterday when the Italian port city of Genoa was hit by flash floods during heavy rainfall, including a woman who was apparently crushed by cars being swept away by the water.

"There have been six deaths," said the local prefect, Francesco Musolino.

Hundreds of shops were flooded and emergency officials urged residents to move to high ground and upper floors as waters rose and fire-fighters used rubber dinghies and divers to evacuate people, officials said.

Five of the victims, including two children, died when the lobby of an apartment block in which they had sought shelter flooded.

"This was a completely unexpected tragedy," said Genoa mayor Marta Vicenzi.



Genoa : A man cleans debris in front of a shop after river Bisagno bursted its banks during heavy rainfall yesterday in downtown Genoa. (AFP PHOTO)

Motorways in the area were also closed off and flights re-routed away from the local airport. Schools will be shut on Saturday.

"People should avoid bridges and streams and not sleep on first floors or in areas that are easily flooded," said Renata Briano, a local emergency official.

The head of the local Liguria region, Claudio Burlando, warned that the situation was "critical," adding: "Moving around is really dangerous."

The flooding comes after heavy rains last week killed 10 people and caused tens of millions of euros (dollars) in damage in Liguria.

Expansion of Rotterdam port turns up Stone Age artefacts

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Work to expand the port of Rotterdam has led to the discovery of the first signs of human presence in the Dutch delta 9,000 years ago, port authorities said yesterday.

"An archaeological investigation has been conducted on the site of Rotterdam port's expansion ... with some very interesting results," said Rotterdam port spokesman Sjaak Poppe.

"Archaeologists found traces of animal bone, flint and charcoal from around 7,000 BC. It's the first indication of human society in western Netherlands," he said.

Digging at a depth of 20 meters (65 feet) in the so-called Yangtzehaven, an undersea mud scooper has brought small artefacts to the surface, which archaeologists

say show traces of life in the Early and Middle Stone Ages.

"Due to its rich fauna and flora, the convergence of the Rhine and Maas Rivers was an attractive place for hunters and gatherers," Poppe said.

People lived in small groups of around 10, with a particular preference for river dunes, which provided safety from flooding.

After the archaeological excavations, the Yangtzehaven is to serve as the access waterway to Rotterdam's new Maasvlakte 2 harbour, designed to increase Europe's biggest port by 20 percent, including two new container terminals, Poppe said.

The port, among the world's 10 largest, on Thursday said it had handled some 327 million tons of cargo in the first nine months of 2011.

Peru's Congress approves 10-year GMO ban

LIMA (AFP) - Peru's Congress announced yesterday it overwhelmingly approved a 10-year moratorium on imports of genetically modified organisms in order to safeguard the country's biodiversity.

The measure bars GMOs -- including seeds, livestock, and fish -- from being imported for cultivation or to be raised locally.

Exceptions include the use

of GMO products for research purposes in a closed environment, but those will be closely monitored, the legislature's official news service said.

The bill, approved late Thursday, now goes to President Ollanta Humala to be signed into law. Humala, who has been in power since late July, has repeatedly said he opposes GM programs.



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Health & Living

China hospital disposes of live baby

BEIJING (AFP) - Health authorities in south China said Friday they were investigating a hospital medical team for mistakenly diagnosing a still-birth and disposing of a baby that was alive.

The probe is taking place at the Nanhai Red Cross Hospital in the Guangdong provincial city of Foshan where the incident occurred on October 26, the Nanhai district health bureau said in a statement faxed to AFP.

According to the statement, Liu Dongmei -- eight months pregnant -- had been rushed to the hospital with internal bleeding and stomach cramps.

She later had an emergency birth, but the baby was neither breathing nor crying after leaving the womb and its skin had turned purple, it said.

Believing it was dead, the medical team disposed of the child but did not follow proper

hospital procedures, the statement added.

The Foshan News, a local website, reported that when Liu's sister-in-law asked to see the body around 30 minutes after birth, she was handed a yellow plastic bag containing the infant and found it was still alive.

"I opened the plastic bag and saw the baby's hands and feet moving, the stomach was going up and down and air bubbles were coming out of his mouth," the paper quoted her as saying.

She was further shocked when she saw the baby was a boy -- not a girl as the family had been told, it said.

According to the Foshan News, nurses had told the family the child was a girl in an effort to blunt the blow of its death.

In China, baby boys are often viewed as more precious

than girls, as many families can have only one child as part of the nation's population policy and desire a male heir.

Following the discovery, the newborn was rushed to intensive care where he remains in a stable condition.

Officials at the hospital refused to comment on the incident when contacted by AFP.

China's healthcare system -- once widely praised for improving the health of millions -- is now panned as costly, underfunded and providing shoddy treatment, especially in poorer regions.

Liu and her husband are seeking to sue the hospital for 300,000 yuan (\$45,000), the Beijing News said.

The head of the maternity ward, a doctor and two nurses have been suspended pending the results of the investigation, it added.

China breaks up fake medicine racket

BEIJING (AFP) - China said Friday it had busted a gang that produced and sold fake medicine -- some made of animal feed -- arresting 114 suspects and seizing more than 65 million counterfeit tablets.

China has frequently been hit by fake drug scandals despite government pledges to improve supervision of the industry, triggering growing public outrage over lax controls and official corruption.

The Ministry of Public Security said in a statement that around 1,000 police officers raided 117 dens and pharmacies that produced and sold fake drugs.

The raids were the result of a four-month investigation during which police discovered that the gang repackaged expired pharmaceuticals, or used dangerous ingredients such as animal feed and chemical pigments to make tablets.

"In order to make the fake drugs similar to the real medi-

cine in colour, weight and other senses, some even added iron powder and diazepam (used to treat anxiety disorders) into their products... which caused huge harm to patients," it said.

The statement did not mention whether anyone had died or fallen ill after taking the counterfeit medicines or when the raids occurred.

Most of the fake drugs were sold to clinics and pharmacies outside city centres or in the countryside, and the sellers used newspapers, magazines and particularly the Internet for promotion, it said.

The case is the latest in a string of food and drug safety scandals to hit the nation.

One of the biggest scandals emerged in 2008 when huge amounts of the industrial chemical melamine were found to have been illegally added to dairy products, killing at least six babies and sickening another 300,000.

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Don't have penis enlargement: Cuban sexpert



Patients are treated in a hospital in Havana in 2010.

HAVANA (AFP) - A leading Cuban sexologist urged young men who are worried about the size of their penis not to take advantage of the communist nation's free health care to have surgery to enlarge their manhood.

"It is not necessary that the penis be so long to encourage a woman... because she has many areas of erotic stimulation," said Ramiro

Fragas, a sex expert at the Ministry of Public Health.

He made his recommendation in a full-page interview in Juventud Rebelde, the newspaper of Cuban youth, after becoming alarmed at "significant" demand from young men for penis enlargement operations.

Although such surgeries are free they require ap-

proval from a team of doctors and health experts.

He also stated that the average Cuban man's penis, 11 to 15 centimeters (four to six inches), according to medical data, was in line with international averages.

And Fragas cautioned that the benefits of such treatment is usually less than desired.

"At most, one or two centimeters," he said, warning of negative after-effects relating to the aesthetics of the male member.

After assessing "dozens" of surgery requests, Fragas said Cuban surgeons had conducted penis enlargement surgery on 20 male patients on account of birth defects or other medical problems.

"Self esteem and knowledge" is the best way of combating the anxiety about having a small penis, Fragas concluded



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Sci-Tech

Giant crack glimpsed in Antarctic ice sheet



In this image obtained from NASA, a close-up image of the crack spreading across the ice shelf of Pine Island Glacier.

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A massive crack is growing wider in the Antarctic ice sheet and could break apart in the coming months, forming an iceberg the size of New York City, NASA scientists warned.

The crack in western Antarctica's Pine Island Glacier stretches for at least 18 miles (30 kilometers) and runs 165 feet (50 meters) deep.

The rift is widening at a rate of 6.5 feet (two meters) per

day, said NASA project scientist Michael Studinger.

When the ice breaks apart, it will produce an iceberg more than 340 square miles (880 square kilometers), said Studinger, who is part of the US space agency's IceBridge project.

But the process is not a result of global warming, he said.

"We expect that later this year or early next year year

there will be a pretty large iceberg forming as part of a natural cycle," he added.

The rift was first glimpsed in late September by scientists monitoring changes in the ice shelf via airplane flyovers in order to fill in the gaps left between a pair of satellites, ICESat (Ice, Cloud and land Elevation Satellite), which ended in 2009, and ICESat 2, which launches in 2016.

Moscow 'Mars mission' ends after 520 days

MOSCOW (AFP) - Six members of a multi-national crew stepped out into the outside world Friday after spending the last 520 days locked in an isolation module in Moscow to simulate the effects of a return trip to Mars.

The crew showed no ill effects after emerging from the capsule where they had lived and slept for the last one-and-half years but were clearly delighted they had completed their earth-bound "journey" to the Red Planet.

After the pressure in the capsule was equalised with the outside, a researcher broke the seal and then opened the door of the module. All six crew members, dressed in blue overalls, walked out one-by-one in good health.

Looking slightly dazzled by their first encounter with other human beings for 18 months, the crew of one Chinese, one Italian, one Frenchman and three Russians lined up in a row to receive the congratulations from scientists.

The unprecedented experiment has simulated the duration and isolation of a return journey to the Red Planet, even including "walks" on a replica of the Martian surface and 20-minute time gaps in

communication with outside.

Yet ever since the crew were first locked up back on June 3, 2010, their 180-square-metre (1,900 square foot) module has stayed firmly rooted to the earth in a car park outside the Moscow research facility.

Controversially, the experiment did not include a woman, with researchers clearly wanting to avoid it degenerating into a scientific version of television's sexual tension-filled "Big Brother".

While there were some titers when the volunteers donned space suits for their "space walk" in a glorified sandpit at the halfway point, scientists insist the experiment was vital preparation for an eventual voyage to Mars.

The deputy head of the Russian space agency, Vitaly Davydov, said a manned voyage to Mars was being considered sometime in the mid-2030s, although he noted that humans would have to return to the Moon first.

More than 100 scientific experiments were carried out during their stay and the deputy president of the Russian Academy of Sciences Anatoly Grigoryev described the project as a "great victory for science."

Amazon opens lending library for Kindle readers

(AFP) - Internet retail giant Amazon.com opened a lending library of digital books available free to owners of its popular Kindle electronic readers.

To borrow from the Kindle online library people must be members of Prime, a premium Amazon service that provides free two-day shipping on all items purchased and unlimited streaming of online films and television shows.

The annual subscription fee for Amazon Prime is \$79.

"Prime Members now have exclusive access to a huge library of books to read on any Kindle device at no additional

cost and with no due dates," said Amazon.com chief executive Jeff Bezos.

The library boasted thousands of works including many from New York Times best-seller lists. People can borrow one book each month.

Books in the Amazon library include "The Hunger Games" trilogy by Suzanne Collins and "Water for Elephants" by Sara Gruen.

Amazon worked out deals to pay publishers fees for lending books.

All Kindle owners recently got access to digital books from public libraries.

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STUDY IN OPPOSITES

ACROSS

1. Shed tears
5. Untidy stack
9. Make a bouffant hairdo
14. First Amendment-supporting gp.
15. First name in daredevilry
16. Baseball's Cap
17. Gangster
18. Conifer
19. Sturm und Drang (German literary movement)
20. Ivory Coast's neighbor
21. Symbol of amity
23. Bamm
24. Bamm's father-in-law
25. -A-Fella Records (Jay-Z's label)
26. It comes first

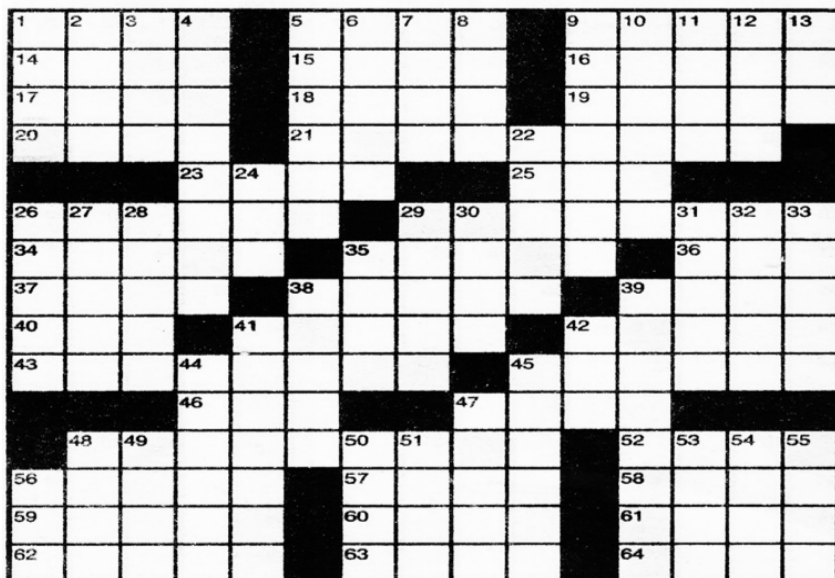
29. Sorcerers
34. Train that makes many stops
35. "Daphnis and Chloe"
36. Against: prefix
37. Lap-sitting cat's sound
38. Actor Wills
39. HS sophomore's challenge
40. Opposite of WNW
41. Like a newly waxed car
42. Annoyance
43. V-E Day headline
45. Card suit
46. Outer: prefix
47. Diverse: abbr.
48. William T. Sherman observation
52. Catchall abbr.

56. Gigi's world
57. Author — Stanley Gardner
58. It flows past Karnak
59. Deal sweetener
60. Property attachment
61. Land of mullahs
62. It sometimes lacks liquidity
63. Fake Rolex salesman's approach
64. Lotto's kin

DOWN

1. Steam-engine pioneer
2. Canyon callback
3. Tobacco chunk
4. Power struggle, figuratively

5. Jalapeño
6. Like some college walls
7. Yakutsk's river
8. Generated power: abbr.
9. Frog-to-be
10. Tenor Caruso
11. PDQ, in a memo
12. Measure of loudness
13. School course: abbr.
22. Flynn of films
24. Cath. or Prot.
26. Muesli brand
27. Have — for (can't abide)
28. Driven fastener
29. Complain nasally
30. Comrade in arms
31. Checked out, pre-heist
32. Scoundrel
33. Satisfies
35. Fashionable
38. Entropy's goal
39. Devout dove
41. Most alluring
42. Second epistolical afterthought
44. Chicken mogul Frank
45. Like some partners
47. French lasses: abbr.
48. Calls on with flowers
49. Sheridan and Blyth
50. Assist
51. She flung the Apple of Discord
53. Flag
54. Lawyer Dershowitz
55. "Leading with My Chin" author
56. Wharton deg.



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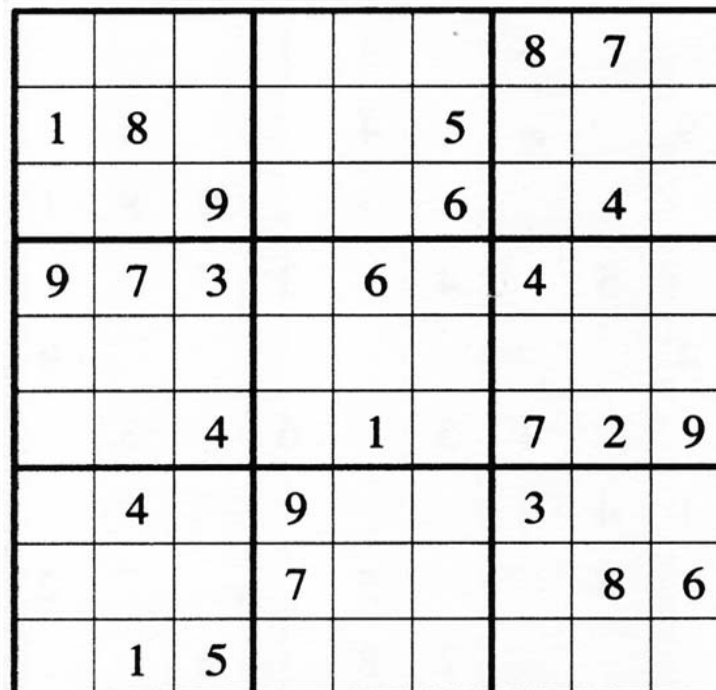
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Sudoku



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9	8	1	7	5	2	6	3	4
2	5	3	1	7	6	8	9	4
6	7	4	8	1	9	5	2	3
5	9	7	6	3	1	2	8	4
8	1	7	9	5	2	6	3	4
1	7	9	8	6	5	2	3	4
3	9	6	5	7	2	8	1	4
7	2	8	6	1	9	5	3	4

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Finance

G20 puts Italy under watch, but no new aid for eurozone

CANNES (AFP) - Leaders of the world's top economic powers yesterday pushed Europe into acting to stop Italy following Greece into a debt crisis, but failed to come up with new funds to boost the IMF war chest.

While the G20 summit agreed in principle to increase IMF funding, the leaders failed to come up with any precise figure or timetable, kicking the issue down the road. Financial markets were unimpressed.

The risk premium on Italian bonds shot up to a new record and eurozone stock markets tumbled, with London's FTSE-100 index closing down 0.33 percent, Paris' CAC-40 down by 2.25 percent and the Frankfurt DAX by 2.72.

Nor was there any let-up in pressure on debt-laden Greece, whose ongoing political and economic crisis still hung heavily over Cannes' rain-lashed seafront summit venue, as an example of the threat facing Italy.

"Put simply, the world faces challenges that put our economic recovery at risk," said US President Barack Obama, reflecting concerns Europe has failed to get to grips with its sovereign debt debacle.

"With respect to Europe, we came to Cannes to discuss with our European friends how they will move forward and build upon the plan they agreed to last week to resolve this crisis."

Amid pressure from the United States and major emerging nations, Italy accepted a humiliating deal to put its economy under international surveillance in a bid to restore market confidence.

Investors are jittery that Italy, also heavily indebted and with sluggish growth, could follow Greece and have sent Rome's borrowing costs to unsustainable levels in recent days.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi confirmed Italy had asked for the International Monetary Fund to monitor its economic reforms, but said that he had turned down an offer of financial aid as it "wasn't necessary".

Rome has recently adopted two austerity packages and has promised more measures, but markets have remained sceptical that they will succeed in eliminating the deficit by 2013 and boosting growth.

"The main problem we have, which has been clearly identified as much by the Italian authorities as by their partners, is a lack of credibility in the measures that have been announced," IMF managing director Christine Lagarde said.

European Commission chief Manuel Barroso hailed the move as "important, not only for the euro area but for global stability" and Germany's Chancellor Angela

Merkel said: "We are very happy with results here."

A team from the Commission, which will also step up its monitoring of Italy, will travel to Rome next week, Barroso added.

In Athens, Prime Minister George Papandreou, was summoned to Cannes for a dressing down by host President Nicolas Sarkozy and Merkel.

Papandreou and his eurozone partners have made it clear that either he or his successor will have to push through a bail-out deal tied to tight fiscal controls decided last week in Europe but now called into question.

EU leaders warned that Greece would not get the next planned eight-billion euro (\$11 billion) aid installment from the IMF and EU unless the deal went through, and threatened to boot Athens out of the Union if it defaults.

Without the EU-IMF funds, Greece would run out of money within weeks, and the roller-coaster political situation and debt crisis in Athens have in turn boosted market pressure on the Italian budget.

Tax havens...



Continued from page 1

The G20 will now publish an updated list of uncooperative tax havens at each of its summits, he added.

The news was welcomed by non-government organisations campaigning for an end to tax havens, which they say cost governments billions of dollars in tax income that could be used to help the poor.

But Oxfam France said the G20 list would have no effect unless it was followed up by strong sanctions on the guilty parties.

"This is a new list to add to all the lists we have seen before of tax havens," the group said in a statement.

Daily Exchange Rates

Current as of: 11/04/2011	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	0.98	1.00	1.002
Canada	CAD	1.730	1.750	1.770
Britiain	GBP	2.780	2.830	2.890
Switzerland	CHF	2.0068	2.0140	2.0020
Netherlands	EUR	2.4309	2.4530	2.4777
Sweden	SEK	0.2594	0.2666	0.2746
Denmark	DKK	0.3200	0.3272	0.3352
Norway	NOK	0.3063	0.3135	0.3215
Japan	JPY	226.02	228.08	230.38
(per 10,000)				
All rates for amounts up to AWG 100,000.00 per item.				

Madoff fund lawyer sues BNP for \$1 bn

NEW YORK (AFP) - The liquidator of the collapsed Madoff Ponzi scheme has sued French bank BNP Paribas to recover nearly \$1 billion he says BNP may have gotten from the investment fund, court papers showed yesterday.

Irving Picard, charged with trying to recover some of the tens of billions of dollars that former Wall Street fund manager Bernard Madoff bilked from investors via his massive pyramid fund, filed the suit Thursday in a New York court.

The court filing said Picard was seeking to recover money transferred to a unit of

the French bank, BNP Paribas Arbitrage, by Harley International (Cayman) Ltd, a so-called "feeder fund" that handled money moving to and from Madoff's operation.

"Based on the trustee's investigation to date, approximately \$975,460,092 of the money transferred from the Madoff group to Harley was subsequently transferred by Harley to defendant BNP Arbitrage," Picard's filing said.

BNP in a statement rejected the claim as "completely unfounded" and said it had "very strong" arguments with which to contest the suit.


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	FRED	ROC
ANSWER	WARLOCKS	
LOCAL	CHLOE	ANA
PURR	CHILL	PSAT
ESE	SHINY	PEEVE
NEWPEACE	SPADES	
EXO	MISC	
WARISHELL	ETAL	
MONDE	ERLE	NILE
BONUS	LIEN	IRAN
ASSET	PSST	KENO



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First production sparks scandal at reopened Bolshoi



Artists perform during "Ruslan and Lyudmila" by Russian composer Mikhail Glinka.

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russia's Bolshoi Theatre has provoked a scandal with the first production in its reopened historic home which was booed and whistled by part of the opening night audience.

The new production of Glinka's opera Ruslan and Lyudmila -- a love story based on a poem by Pushkin -- is the first in the restored Bolshoi Theatre which reopened with a gala after an agonising six-

year closure.

Russian director Dmitry Chernyakov makes no attempt to please traditionalists in his version of what some see as Russia's national opera which received its premiere on Wednesday night.

The opera opens in period dress and decor with a display of almost dazzlingly kitsch colours in a bright blue hall. It then transfers to modern times with elements including a Thai

massage and a tattooed athlete.

At the curtain several members of the audience yelled "shame!" and booed and whistled, an unusual outburst in Russia which is unaccustomed to Italian-style displays of audience dissatisfaction with performances.

Chernyakov said ahead of the performance that it was not his intention to create a scandal but that he was prepared for attacks from more conservative elements in the public.

"The subject is completely modern and the emotions will be as in real life," he said.

However first night critics largely expressed admiration for the performance, in particular the musical direction under the baton of star Russian conductor Vladimir Jurowski who until now has largely worked abroad.

Justin Bieber denies ever meeting paternity accuser

NEW YORK (AFP) - Teen pop sensation Justin Bieber on Friday said he has never once met the 20-year-old woman who alleges that the singer is the father of her baby boy who was born three months ago.

According to the tabloid

Star magazine, Mariah Yeater says she and Bieber, 17, had sex backstage at one of his shows in Los Angeles. The magazine said Yeater's lawyers had filed a paternity lawsuit on Monday.

Bieber, however, told the

hosts of the Today show that the claims were without foundation.

"I would just like to say that none of those allegations are true," he said, as hundreds of fans who had gathered outside the show's New York studios screamed in support of the young star.

When asked again about the woman's sex claim, Bieber said: "I have never met her."

A statement released by the singer's publicist on Wednesday said his lawyers had not seen the suit reportedly filed by Yeater, but said "it's sad that someone would fabricate, malicious, defamatory and demonstrably false claims".

"We will vigorously pursue all available legal remedies to defend and protect Justin against these allegations," it added.

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Parents Guide to Skin Protection



It's important to protect your children's skin from the damaging effects of the sun. No matter what they're doing or what time of year it is, if they are outdoors, they need to be protected.

Aruba is one of the places in the world where the sun is the strongest. Located only 12.5 degrees north of the equator, the sun shines with maximum strength and penetrates the atmosphere with a maximum amount of UV rays. What most people don't know on water and sand, which means that even in the shade you need protection.

Protecting the skin from the sun during childhood and adolescence is important in reducing cancer risks later in life. By building safe sun habits into your family's daily routine, you will make your children understand and get used to being protected against the sun and they will become more aware of the harmful effects it can have to their skin. Parents should take the lead by giving the good example; children will respond better when they see their parents protecting their skin as well.

screen that is not waterproof.

- Use sunscreen even on hazy or overcast days.

- Keep an extra bottle of sunscreen in the car.

- Pack a bottle of sunscreen in your child's bag.

- Use Sunglasses that block UV rays and protect the eyes and the surrounding tender skin.



Important recommendations:

- Wear protective clothing when out in the sun. Choose shirts and slacks made of tightly woven fabrics that you can't see through when held up to light.

- Cover up with Hats. Choose hats that shade your child's face, neck and ears.

- Apply Sunscreen every day on skin that is not protected by clothing or a hat. Choose a sunscreen with a high Sun Protection Factor (SPF) such as Aruba Aloe's Waterproof SPF 30 sunscreen for maximum protection. For babies and children under 2 years old, make sure to use a special sunscreen that gives extra protection for the sensitive skin such as "Waterproof Babies SPF 30" from Aruba Aloe. Remember to reapply after swimming, sweating or toweling dry if you use a sun-

- Play in the Shade. The sun's rays are generally strongest from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If your children are outdoors, make sure their skin is protected.

- Teach your children the shadow rule. When outside, if your shadow is shorter than you are, it means that the sun is high in the sky and the UV rays are most intense.

- Protect children younger than 6 months of age with clothing and keep them in the shade.

For more advice on how to best protect your and your children's skin against the sun, please call Aruba Aloe: 588-3222 or visit the website www.ArubaAloe.com

Aruba Aloe products are available at most hotels, supermarkets, pharmacies and the Aruba Aloe Stores.

Buster's Garage in South Beach Center for snacking, sports events and fun!



Buster's Garage, a New York City landmark, made its way to Aruba about a year ago, and found a new home at the South Beach Center across from the Radisson Resort. Dedicated to the sports fanatic, the spacious but homey interior is the perfect place to keep up with your favorite team and have a great meal.

Fun for all the family, Buster's has typical sport bar fare such as chicken wings, quesadillas, calamari rings for munching while watching the main event on 24 giant plasma screens. Every seat is good seat for catching all the action. Open from noon for lunch or

dinner, it has plenty of distractions for the younger crowd, including foosball, and a video arcade, so Mom and Dad can relax and enjoy their meal.

The moderately priced menu includes all your favorite finger foods and a great selection of local and imported beers. Customer reviews gave Buster's Garage 4.5 stars out of 5 on yellowpages-aruba.com; one declared "my wife and I happened to stumble upon it - but what a find!" Another stated "Owner Rusty is so down to earth. The food was very good and the prices were outstanding for the High-Rise area. Aruba needed a place like this."

Buster's regularly organizes special events with live music. At 10 p.m. it turns into a cozy adult hangout; 18 years and over only allowed, with a DJ on duty nightly and boasting the only beerpong table on Aruba. Aside from a great place to root for the home team or your favorites during play-offs and championships, they regularly carry all UFC fights & WWE events.

Buster's is a great place where island visitors and residents mix and mingle; Monday to Thursday they close at 2:00 a.m., weekends at 4:00 a.m.

by Rosalie Klein

Jury ponders fate of Jackson doctor

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The jury in the manslaughter trial of Michael Jackson's doctor Conrad Murray began deliberating Friday to decide whether he is guilty of the star's 2009 death.

The seven men and five women have to reach a verdict on a sole charge of involuntary manslaughter against the 58-year-old Murray, accused of giving Jackson an overdose of the powerful sedative propofol to help him sleep.

The jury began considering its verdict after a day of drama Thursday, when prosecution and defense lawyers presented their closing arguments at the trial, which began on September 27.

In a powerful summary, Deputy District Attorney David Walgren said the 58-year-old medic caused the star's death through negligence and greed, depriving his children of their father and the world of a "genius."

Defense attorney Ed Chernoff then took the floor to

claim that Murray was "a little fish in a big dirty pond," alleging that key witnesses conspired to agree on a story after Jackson died at his LA mansion on June 25, 2009.

Outside the court Friday, fans carrying placards including "Straight to jail and throw away the key" and "One way ticket to jail" gathered from early morning to await the verdict, which many feel could come as early as Friday.

"I think it will happen .. because the jury has heard enough, we have all heard enough, I think we're all ready to get it done with," said Tami Capps, from Oklahoma.

"I think this jury... knows enough that they will come to a verdict today," Capps, one of a handful of Jackson fans who won a seat in court in a daily lottery if the verdict is given, told the HLN television channel.

Murray faces up to four years in jail and could lose the right to practice medicine if convicted over Jackson's death

from an overdose of the anesthetic propofol, combined with other sedatives administered to help him sleep.

Murray above all wanted to protect his \$150,000 a month salary for looking after Jackson, Walgren said, describing how the doctor agreed to treat the star's insomnia with the anesthetic propofol against all medical advice.

The defense has argued that Jackson was a desperate drug addict who caused his own death by taking more medicines while Murray was out of the room at the star's rented mansion in Los Angeles.

Murray's case was harmed by his own account of Jackson's final hours, given to police, in which he recounted giving a series of sedatives, including lorazepam and midazolam, in a vain attempt to help the star sleep.

The doctor claimed he left the star for only two minutes to go to the bathroom and returned to find Jackson not breathing.

Sport

WealthTV to Telecast 'Viva Don King' World Championship Fight Card Live On Saturday, Nov. 5



WealthTV Signs WBA Championship Fight

DEERFIELD BEACH- Don King Productions announced an agreement with WealthTV for a live telecast of the Nov. 5 world championship fight card featuring World Boxing Association titleholder Guillermo "El Felino" Jones (37-3-2, 29 KOs) taking on WBA No. 14-ranked cruiserweight Mike Marrone (20-3, 15 KOs) from Hard Rock Live at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, Fla.

Promoter Don King said this is the first of what he hopes will be a number of telecasts on WealthTV.

"As the number of networks and telecast platforms across the technological spectrum has increased, I have been looking for new and inventive ways to bring my events to the masses," King said. "WealthTV is the latest in a long line of outlets that have come to me seeking to expand audience and market share through world championship prizefights."

"I see this as a golden opportunity for people across the nation to see fights on WealthTV, just like people saw fights on ABC, CBS and NBC in yesteryear. I hope this is the first of many live boxing telecasts on WealthTV. This is a good thing for boxing fans who can't be there on the scene but can watch it live on the screen."

WealthTV CEO Robert Herring is pleased his network will telecast its first boxing event on Nov. 5.

"WealthTV has provided compelling programming 24 hours a day since 2004," Her-

ring said. "Telecasting the Viva Don King world championship boxing card is an honor for us and fits nicely into the programming vision for WealthTV."

The event will air live on WealthTV on Nov. 5, exact time to be determined. WealthTV is available on over 100 cable systems across the country (see list at www.WealthTV.com) including Verizon FiOS TV and AT&T U-verse.

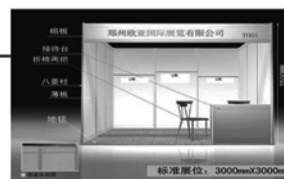
In addition to the Jones vs. Marrone cruiserweight world championship, WealthTV will also include live coverage of Joey "Twinkle Fingers" Hernandez, from Miami, the United States Boxing Organization junior middleweight champion, facing Elco "The Animal" Garcia (25-7, 12 KOs), from Mexico, with the WBC U.S. national super welterweight championship going to the winner; WBA No. 1-ranked cruiserweight (and mandatory challenger to the champion) Francisco "The Wizard" Palacios (20-1, 13 KOs), raised in Puerto Rico now fighting out of Orlando, Fla., squaring off against Joell Godfrey (13-4-1, 6 KOs), from East St. Louis, Ill.; undefeated Cuban prospect Angelo "La Cobra" Santana (11-0, 8 KOs), now fighting out of Miami, taking on southpaw Broderick Antone (11-11-1, 5 KOs), Troy, N.Y.; and Gusmyr Perdomo (17-3, 11 KOs), from Venezuela, meeting LaFarrell Bunting (18-3-1, 17 KOs), from Memphis, Tenn., for the vacant FEDELATIN super middleweight championship.

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Djokovic fights back

continued from page 16



Serbia's Novak Djokovic eyes the ball during his game against Marcos Baghdatis.

The 32nd-ranked Nishikori will be competing in his third semi-final in six weeks after making it to the final four last

month in Kuala Lumpur and at the Shanghai Masters, which was the best showing of his career.

"It's a great feeling," he said after the victory. "I knew this would be tough, but another semi-final is a great result for me."

The 21-year-old began his week in Basel with his second career top 10 win, putting out year-end final contender and fourth seed Tomas Berdych, having previously upset Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the Shanghai second round.

The Florida-based Nishikori took 20 minutes short of three hours to win his sixth quarter-final from seven played this season.

"He's had a great last few months and is a very talented player," said opponent Djokovic. "It should be a good match."



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NFL: Giants face Patriots as season reaches mid-point



Brandon Jacobs #27 of the New York Giants grabs the ball after his own fumble against the Miami Dolphins at MetLife Stadium on October 30, 2011.

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NEW YORK (AFP) - Division leaders New England and the New York Giants meet for the first time since the 2008 Super Bowl on Sunday in a crucial National Football League game as the gridiron season reaches the halfway mark.

The Giants, 5-2, own a two-game edge in the NFC East while the host Patriots, whose bid for an unbeaten Super Bowl title run ended with a loss to New York nearly four years ago, are tied with Buffalo atop the AFC East at 5-2.

New England quarterback Tom Brady was sacked five times in that defeat and the Giants again lead the NFL in sacks with 26, most of those coming in the past three weeks. But to Brady, the Super Bowl sorrow is ancient history.

"That's distant memory," Brady said. "There's not much you can take from that. This is an entirely different team that they have and we have."

"There are other times where you think about it, but this week I'm not thinking about that game. I've had a lot of opportunities to think about that game, but this isn't the week for that."

Giants quarterback Eli Manning hopes to lead an upset of the Patriots as he did

in the Super Bowl. New England offers the NFL's worst pass defense to a passer who ranks third in the league.

"These games are fun," Manning said. "When you think of the Patriots, you always think of a team that is always in the playoff picture, always a talented, well-coached team. These are easy games to get excited for."

NFL receptions leader Wes Welker, who has 57 catches for 824 yards and six touchdowns, will help New England try to extend a 20-game regular season home win streak and 31-game home win mark with Brady at quarterback.

The Giants are injury-riddled as well with running back Ahmad Bradshaw having a sore foot, receiver Hakeem Nicks slowed with a hamstring injury and defensive end Osi Umenyiora nursing a sore shoulder. Nicks leads the Giants with 38 catches for 575 yards and three touchdowns.

Should the Patriots fall, the New York Jets (4-3) could claim a share of the AFC East lead with a victory at Buffalo (5-2).

The AFC North division lead is up for grabs with Baltimore visits Pittsburgh in a matchup of heated rivals who met in the season opener, a 35-7 Ravens rout of Pittsburgh.

"Our city doesn't like their city, and a lot of stuff is on the line," said Ravens offensive tackle Michael Oher, whose difficult journey to the NFL was made famous in the film "The Blind Side".

Discipline to avoid retaliation moves that often bring penalties will be critical, Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis said.

"Definitely, when you get into a game like this, any type of penalty like that can be huge," he said. "You've always got to be kind of conscious of those things. Just don't try to

make the bonehead play."

The Green Bay Packers, the NFL's only undefeated team at 7-0, try to reach the mid-point of their season with a perfect record when they visit San Diego (4-3).

San Diego lost a game they were in position to win last Monday when Philip Rivers fumbled the ball off a snap and Kansas City's Andy Studebaker recovered, denying the Chargers a chance for a winning field goal from point-blank range.

The San Francisco 49ers, chasing the Packers for the NFL's top overall record at 6-

1, visit Washington (3-4).

The NFC South division lead will be up for grabs on Sunday when pace-setter New Orleans (5-3) plays host to Tampa Bay (4-3) while Atlanta (4-3) travels to winless Indianapolis (0-8).

Sunday's other games find Seattle at Dallas, Miami at Kansas City, Cleveland at Houston, Denver at Oakland, Cincinnati at Tennessee and St. Louis at Arizona while Chicago will visit Philadelphia on Monday. Minnesota, Carolina, Detroit and Jacksonville are idle.



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Djokovic fights back to oust Baghdatis

BASEL (AFP) - Novak Djokovic fought back to dispatch Marcos Baghdatis 2-6, 6-2, 6-3 here on Friday, reaching the ATP Swiss Indoors semi-finals and confirming a welcome return to form.

The Serbian top seed set up a clash with rising Japanese star Kei Nishikori, a 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 winner in nearly three hours over Kazak Mikhail Kukushkin.

Djokovic, competing for the first time in six weeks after back trouble, fought off a dozen aces from Baghdatis to move into the last four at the event he won in 2009 against Roger Federer.

He dropped serve twice in the opening set but quickly put his game right to steam through in just over 90 minutes.

"I'm not playing so strong but I'm winning, that's the important thing," said Djokovic. "It was a tense match, Marcos played well."

"He started well, I had no life on the court. But I made the crucial break at 3-2 and that was the key to the match, that decided it."

"I had my chance to come back in the match and I did. I know my game will get better. I'm just impatient for that to happen."

Djokovic improved to 6-0 over Baghdatis, a player against whom he has struggled, with the Cypriot winning sets in their last four meetings.

Djokovic's win was his 67th of a sensational season against just three losses.

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Swimming: Olympic great Thorpe flops in comeback



Australian swimming great Ian Thorpe reacts after the men's 100-metre individual

SINGAPORE (AFP) - Australian swimming great Ian Thorpe's hotly anticipated return from five years on the sidelines ended in a disappointing second-last place Friday, tempering hopes he can reach next year's Olympics.

Thorpe, 29, swimming the unaccustomed 100m individual medley at a low-key World Cup short-course event in Singapore, was off the pace after the first 25m and he ended

seventh, more than three seconds adrift of winner Chad le Clos.

The five-time Olympic champion, whose comeback has sparked anticipation of a mouth-watering London 2012 match-up with American superstar Michael Phelps, glared at the scoreboard before smiling and shaking hands with a competitor.

"I was doing really well -- and then the breaststroke hap-

pened," said Thorpe, referring to the medley's third leg. "It wasn't so bad this morning."

The performance rounded off a dispiriting night for Australian veterans as triple Olympic champion Libby Trickett, who also came out of retirement this year, finished last and sixth on her return to international competition.

But Thorpe, who announced his shock return in February and has been training in Switzerland under coach Gennadi Touretski, put a brave face on his swim, which disappointed a small but favourable crowd at a Singapore school.

Trickett, 26, also remained confident she would recover her form in time for Australia's Olympic trials in March despite placing sixth in the 50m freestyle and last in the 100m butterfly.

Thorpe, who stunned

swimming when he retired in 2006 aged just 24, will also swim the 100m butterfly on the second and final day of competition today.

He admitted he was impatient for success despite being just nine months into his comeback to a sport in which he collected five Olympic gold medals in 2000 and 2004 along with 11 world titles.

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